

**AN ORDINANCE BY  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, CHAPTER 162, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 1, SECTION 162-36 TO REQUIRE THAT THE DOME LIGHTS, WITH WHICH THE ROOFS OF ALL TAXICABS MUST CURRENTLY BE AFFIXED, BE WIRED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF INJURY; FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE SAFETY OF TAXICAB DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Atlanta has an interest in maintaining the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Atlanta and its visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 1-102(c)(36) of its Charter, the City of Atlanta is authorized to regulate and license vehicles operated for hire in the city; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 98-29 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances ("Code"), the department of police contains the Bureau of Taxicabs and Vehicles for Hire, whose functions and duties include all matters related to inspecting, licensing, and regulating taxicabs and vehicles for hire and enforcing provisions of law pertaining to such vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 162, Article II, Division 1, Section 162-36 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances proscribes the information which must be displayed on all taxicabs; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 162-36(e) requires "[a]ll taxicabs shall be equipped with a dome light not less than six inches in height, permanently affixed to the roof, bearing the term "taxi" or the company name;" and

**WHEREAS**, it has come to the attention of the Bureau of Taxicabs and Vehicles for Hire that in some instances the dome lights required by Section 162-36(e) have been installed such that the lights wires run across the top of the vehicle, and through the driver's side door; and

**WHEREAS**, this method of installation ensures that every time the driver's side door is closed, the door clamps down on the wires, which could cause an electrical short causing possible fire or electrocution; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the City of Atlanta to require that the dome lights required by Section 162-36(e) be installed in such a way as to minimize the threat of injury; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to amend Chapter 162 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances to accomplish this purpose.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAINS,  
as follows:

**Section 1:** That Chapter 162, Article II, Division 1, Section 162-36(e), of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances which currently reads:

(e) *Dome light on roof.* All taxicabs shall be equipped with a dome light not less than six inches in height, permanently affixed to the roof, bearing the term "taxi" or the company name.

be amended such as Chapter 162, Article II, Division 1, Section 162-36(e), of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances shall read as follows:

(e) *Dome light on roof.* All taxicabs shall be equipped with a dome light not less than six inches in height, permanently affixed to the roof, **whose wires shall not run across the top of the exterior of the roof**, bearing the term "taxi" or the company name.

**Section 2:** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**Section 3:** All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby waived for purposes of this ordinance only, and only to the extent of the conflict.

TRANSMITTAL FORM FOR LEGISLATION

TO: MAYOR'S OFFICE

ATTN: GREG PRIDGEON

Legislative Counsel: s/Amber A. Robinson

Contact Number: 404-330-6494

Originating Department: Atlanta Police Department

Committee(s) of Purview: Public Safety and Legal Administration

Council Deadline: June 18, 2009

Anticipated Committee Meeting Date(s): June 30 and July 14, 2009

Anticipated Full Council Date: July 20, 2009

Commissioner Signature D/C George W. Turner

Chief Procurement Officer Signature N/A

CAPTION

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, CHAPTER 162, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 1, SECTION 162-36 TO REQUIRE THAT THE DOME LIGHTS, WITH WHICH THE ROOFS OF ALL TAXICABS MUST CURRENTLY BE AFFIXED, BE WIRED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF INJURY; FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE SAFETY OF TAXICAB DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

FINANCIAL IMPACT (if any)

Mayor's Staff Only

Received by CPO:

(date)

Received by LC from CPO:

(date)

Received by Mayor's Office:

(date)

Reviewed by:

(date)

Submitted to Council:

(date)